

species with *riparia* Fairm. (*nec* Thoms.), but used Sharp's name for it, while querying *rugulosa* Kr. as synonymous. Species 17 of the check-list must therefore be altered to *riparia* Fairmaire 1859/= *mutata* Sharp 1871/= *rugulosa* auct., *nec* Kraatz 1856.

O. tarda Shp. (p. 24): in a paper which I have not seen (1959, *Mitt. D. ent. Ges.*, 18 (4): 60-1), Dr H. Korge has split off from *O. brachyptera* Steph. a species determined as *O. difficilis* Roub. Dr Lohse, however (*op. cit. sup.*, 67) points out that *O. difficilis* sensu Korge is a different species from Roubal's and is in fact *O. tarda* Sharp. In my notes I have tentatively classified *tarda* as a form of the evidently plastic species *brachyptera*, but must stress that this treatment (like others in the same paper) is no more than provisional. When the question has been more thoroughly sifted it may well appear that *tarda* should be restored to specific rank; but as yet—the two forms being in any case exceedingly close—I am not convinced of the need for this, and meanwhile we shall not be far wrong in adopting the more synthetic point of view. It is, moreover, quite possible that the form *tarda* has on the Continent evolved further towards full speciation than it has in Britain; there are several instances where this (or the converse) seems to have happened.

6. ORTHOPERUS (1970, 82: 112-120)

Page 112, l. 8, insert comma after 'limbs'. p. 113, l. 1, insert full stop after (1889). p. 117, l. 19 up, for *nirgescens* read *nigrescens*. p. 119, l. 13 up, for Fennoscaydian read Fennoscandian; l. 4 up, for 'seems' read 'seem'.

63 Blackheath Park, London, S.E.3. 26.xii.70.

Gortyna borellii Pierret (ssp *lunata* Freyer ?): a new British moth

By J. B. FISHER

I have now taken 3 specimens of this moth, the first kindly identified by Mr D. Read of the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, and the second and third by myself. The first, a female was caught at a lighted window in the autumn of 1968 and for various rather embarrassing reasons not taken to be identified until early this year. The others were taken on 25th September 1970 at an M.V. trap in the same locality. According to the Museum this is the first British record.

This *Hydraecia* is well known in Central France and Central Europe generally I think, and has the typical *Hydraecia* shape. It resembles most a giant Frosted Orange (*Gortyna flavago*), its size in fact being similar to a Large Yellow Underwing (*Noctua pronuba*). My three specimens have wing spans ranging from 50 mm to over 56 mm. The ground colour of the fore wings,

however, is paler and much more olive than *flavago*, all 3 stigmata are very pronounced and there is a widening dark brown/black mark going horizontally through the orbital and reniform. Finally there is no inner line. The body is very similar indeed to *flavago*.



With no other British record and little information to go on I thought it must be a vagrant or migrant but the capture of the second and third this September—one of which was very fresh—raised the possibility that this was a very local, indigenous species. On the advice of Mr D. S. Fletcher of the Museum I wrote to M. Charles Boursin in Paris and his reply was most encouraging. The moth he said is not a migrant, is unlikely to have been introduced recently and feeds on an extremely local member of the umbelliferous tribe which, as it happens, grows within 3 miles of my house (possibly nearer) and in very few other places in this country. He also pointed out (rather wryly) the somewhat similar circumstances of *Hydraecia hucherardi*'s discovery in the 1950's, and was not at all surprised to hear that we had *borelii*.

Thus there is a very strong likelihood that this is a local breeding species, possibly quite common. It is a relatively late flyer. There are no keen collectors that I know of in the immediate neighbourhood, and as the breeding area is rather remote I suppose it could easily have been overlooked for some time. I myself am a lazy collector at the moment, with an M.V. trap on at weekends only, and not every weekend, so more diligence at the right time could well have produced more specimens here, let alone in the actual breeding area. Next year, of course, I will search for larvae to try and prove breeding but it is nice to think that there is a strong possibility of a casual M.V. trap in commuter country still turning up a new breeding species.